

I communicated your reply to Frank -
I think he is too busy with his
political troubles to worry about
the matter further.

48 Temple Court, Melbourne,

4 Feby 1886

My dear Andrew,

I have been delaying
an answer to your last
hoping that I might have
had something definite to
tell you as to my future
movements. Up to the present
however a good deal of
uncertainty attaches to my
plans. I have had several
offers of partnership since
I was admitted, one being

from C^m Watson with whom
I formerly was. Acting on
the advice of my friends some-
-what against my own
judgments I declined his
proposals, thinking that Mr
Smith no. probably wish to
retain me - I have since
discussed the matter with
the latter & altho' he says
he is willing to increase
my salary & to make me
a "proposal" (as he terms it)
at the end of the year, when
he is going to England & will
be greatly inconvenienced
by my departure, he
will not make any
present change in our relations.

Must love to offer Court of the children in haste

This does not suit me - I have had
Enough of clerkships & have a sufficiently
large connection to strike out for myself.

I have therefore given him notice & leave
at the end of the month. Meanwhile I am looking
out for office & clients & will have greater difficulty
in getting the first than the second. Meanwhile I

want you to secure me ^{either} all the Tasmanian
business you can - I think of sending a circular
letter to the members of the profession there or
putting an advertisement in the Hobart &
Launceston papers to the effect that I look ^{consequently} for
business. Which course do you think the better?

I have also written to Dodds asking him to get
me appointed a Coun. of your Court. Will you
kindly see him on the subject & see that he
does not lose sight of my interests - I will also
try to get clerkships for all the other colonies
as I am more or less well known in them -

If I can only tide over the first three months
I have no doubt of doing well eventually.
I have other matters of business to write about
but they are hardly yet sufficiently developed.

I hope you will write fully as soon as you
can - I am glad to see that ^{the} temporary illness
you mentioned in your last note soon over.

I hope you have been all right since -
I will write again shortly & hope to hear
from you very soon - I have gotten J. G. N. a capital
situation (with excellent prospects of getting on)
as conveying clerk in Taylor, Buckland & Co's, one
of our best houses - He goes in on Monday.